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OCA 87-2137

12 May 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Soviet ASAT Briefing for Rep. Bill Alexander (D., AK)

1. On 12 May 1987, Mr. Larry Gershwin (National Intelligence Officer for Strategic Programs) briefed Mr. Bill Alexander (D., AK) on the Soviet ASAT Program. The session was initiated by General Rankin (USAF). Apparently, Mr. Alexander was a potential supporter of the U.S. SDI program and the General thought that a briefing on the Soviet activities in this arena would swing him in favor of supporting our efforts.

2. Mr. Alexander opened the session with remarks that he was concerned about supporting our SDI program without knowing what the opposition was up to. He apologized for not taking an active interest in following Soviet Strategic Programs in more detail, but his priorities rested in other committee activities.

3. Mr. Gershwin's presentation included the current Soviet [redacted] efforts in laser weapon technology. The impact of their total efforts in the SDI arena made an impact on Mr. Alexander. He was concerned that many Members of Congress were not aware of this effort and wondered how the word could get out. Mr. Gershwin recommended a DoD document "Soviet Military Power" which was published every year. This is an excellent publication and highlights their efforts at an unclassified level.

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4. The session concluded with Mr. Alexander stating that he would suggest a similar briefing to other committee Members.

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